Central assistance for Punjab

2043. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:
SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Punjab has sought additional Central assistance from Planning Commission for the implementation of its Annual Plan, 2003-04; and

(b) if so, the quantum of assistance sought and how much Central assistance is proposed to be provided and by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In course of discussions in a meeting for determination of Annual Plan 2003-04 of Punjab held on 24.7.2003, the Chief Minister of the State requested Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission for Additional Central Assistance amounting to Rs. 191 crore for implementing some important schemes Deputy Chairman considered the request in the meeting and allocated one-time Additional Central Assistance of Rs. 50 crore to the Government of Punjab.

Agricultural growth in Orissa

2044. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recommended investment for agricultural growth in Orissa;

(b) whether emphasis has been laid on development of rural infrastructure and irrigation facilities to dry lands etc. and provision of rural credit to the farmers; and

(c) Orissa being the most poor, backward and cash-strapped State the amount of Central assistance proposed to be given to the State to help them to work on the recommendations of the Commission to bost their economy?